(c) if so, whether Government is considering to dilute/repeal such provisions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Compulsory packaging in jute bags has been provided for only two commodities, *viz.*, foodgrains & sugar and that too for packaging in bags, with weight of 25.00 kgs and above and less than 100.00 kgs. All other commodities may be packed in any other kind of bags. Foodgrains and sugar in bags of weight less than 25.00 kgs and that of 100.00 kgs or more have also been exempted from the reservation. The reservation for jute packaging of foodgrains and sugar only affects the plastic woven sack industries, minimally.

(c) No, Sir.

Schemes for weaver community and handicraft artisan

1391. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of welfare schemes being run for the weaver community and handicraft artisan currently, State-wise;

(b) whether Government has set up any Committee to study the economic backwardness of weavers and handicraft artisans community living in rural and semi urban areas and depending upon traditional occupation/artisanship;

(c) if so, whether the said Committee has submitted its report; and

(d) if so, the findings thereof alongwith the action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) At present, Government of India is implementing Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme, Marketing & Export Promotion Programme, Mill Gate Price Scheme, Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme and Diversified Handloom Development Scheme for the welfare of the handloom weavers and overall development of the handloom sector and Handicrafts Artisans Comprehensive Welfare Scheme with the component of (i) the Rajiv Gandhi Shilpi Swasthya Bima Yojana and (ii) the Bima Yojana for the welfare of handicraft artisans.

(b) No such committee has been set up, so far, to study the economic backwardness of weavers and handicraft artisans.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Strategy to improve the conditions of cotton growers in Vidarbha region

1392. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has charted out a strategy to improve the conditions of cotton growers in the Vidarbha Region in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry is also wooing leading Indian and international textile majors, in order to promote fair cotton trade cultivation practices on a contract basis; and